



Fact Sheet

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control • 2600 Bull Street • www.scdhec.gov • Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

Florence Water

Updated information – Monday, Feb. 5, 2007

Laboratory results:

DHEC testing of public water in Florence has found no trace of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in the City of Florence drinking water. We did find a trace amount of Trihalomethanes (THM).

What are Trihalomethanes?

Trihalomethanes are a byproduct of chlorinating drinking water that contains natural organics such as decaying vegetation. The City of Florence water system uses wells and water from the Great Pee Dee River to provide drinking water to its customers.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency survey found that trihalomethanes are present in virtually all chlorinated water supplies. The EPA set a standard for the amount of THMs that are allowed to be in drinking water at 80 parts per billion. The EPA also instructed public water systems across the country to reduce the amount of THMs in the water because there are studies that indicate there may be some health risks associated with THMs.

The amount of trihalomethanes found in the sampling DHEC took Saturday was 1.7 parts per billion, far below the federal standard of 80 parts per billion. DHEC officials report the City of Florence water system has never exceeded the EPA standard for THMs.

Next steps:

DHEC staff has notified Florence District One school officials that the drinking water at Delmae Elementary School is safe for drinking and cooking.

Our scientists will be taking more samples from the Florence water system Monday afternoon to confirm the findings of Saturday's sampling. Our staff will also be working with property owners in the area on private wells that might have contamination from tetrachloroethylene, or PCE. DHEC's investigation to determine the source of the PCE contamination in the area is continuing.

-END-